

BOER ADVANCE

On Natal Now Claiming a Share of Attention

THAT HAS BEEN FOCUSSED

On the beleaguered Garrison at Mafeking—According to Early Dispatches Received in London the Transvaal Troops do Not Appear to Have Been Driven Back.

LONDON, Oct. 19.—Natal, again claims a share of the attention which during the last few days has been focussed upon the beleaguered garrison at Mafeking. The combined advance of the Boer forces on the positions held by the British general commanding in Natal, Sir George Stewart White, has already occasioned a sharp affair of outposts which possibly has since developed into a pitched battle.

The Boers, according to the latest information at hand, do not appear to have been driven back. Perhaps, however, their movements are only part of a general plan to isolate both Ladysmith and Glencoe from the south. The simultaneous Boer movements from Acton Homes from the west and from Rorke's Drift and Helpmakaar from the east may indicate a projected attack upon the railway below Colenso. The movement from the east also suggests an attack upon the railway at Waasbank between Ladysmith and Glencoe.

Military experts are inclined to the opinion that the troops at Glencoe are only a small rearguard left to attract the force under command—General Joubert, while General White's full strength is concentrated at Ladysmith with a view of attacking the Orange Free State force while General Joubert is still forty miles away. Stories of British successes in the Mafeking districts are so persistent that in the absence of contradiction from Boer sources they may be accepted as true in the main, although the alleged killing of 300 Boers is discredited.

General Conje's troops are regarded as the flower of the Transvaal forces and decisive fighting must occur on the western border. If, as was intimated in last night's dispatches, reliefs are approaching from Rhodesia, it will probably not be long delayed.

Apart from their desire to gain an initial advantage by capturing Mafeking and thereby attracting the Dutch colonists, the object of the Boers in massing in Bechuanaland is due, doubtless, to the fact that this splendid stock country is full of cattle, and as is only sparsely settled, would give the Transvaal a route by which to import arms and munitions by way of Walvisch bay, Damaraland, on the West African coast.

A dispatch from Pretoria asserts that the Pretoria government has telegraphed to Joseph Benjamin Robinson, the millionaire gold mine owner and chairman of the Robinson South African Banking Company, who is now in London, to return to Johannesburg on pain of confiscation of his property. Mr. Robinson characterizes the alleged threat as ridiculous.

He says he is a British subject, that the Transvaal government has no right to demand his return and that his property has not been and cannot be confiscated.

Portugal, according to a dispatch from Berlin, has given distinct assurances of her neutrality. A continuance of commerce with the Transvaal, by way of Delagoa bay is therefore secured.

Almost everything is now in readiness for the great departure of troops from Southampton to-morrow when five troopships, each carrying a thousand men with officers will start for South Africa. The first will sail at 1:30 p. m., the others following at intervals of half an hour.

According to private information received here from Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State, President Kruger telegraphed an account to President Steyn, of the affair at Krampan, where the Boers derailed and bombarded the British armored train, carrying Captain Nesbitt's party. Mr. Kruger said that Nesbitt and seven men were seriously wounded, that no one was killed and that all the prisoners were well.

According to the same advice, a Dutch farmer, living in one of the border towns has received a letter from a friend in the Transvaal, referring to the Mafeking affair as "bad business."

The Associated Press learns that the transports which will convey the army corps about to start for South Africa will go neither to Durban nor Cape Town, both of which are already overcrowded with refugees, but to Port Elizabeth, Port Alfred and East London, from which points railroads converge directly upon the Free State border, where concentration will be effected somewhere in the neighborhood of Norval's Pont. The advance will then begin toward Pretoria, straight through the Free State.

DETAILS SCANTY

Of the Fighting, Between the Boers and Britons in Natal.

NEW YORK, Oct. 19.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says:

"The latest intelligence from the west

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of war indicates that fighting of a serious nature commences in Natal. Details are very scanty at present, but hostilities were evidently started by the Free State troops, who advanced from Tintwa Pass and engaged the British cavalry in a long range artillery duel. Firing continued for the greater part of yesterday, but it is not known what result, although it is admitted there are several casualties on the British side. Sir George White has pushed up his supports and everything points to a big engagement to-day.

Ladysmith has fully 3,000 troops, and at Glencoe, on the other flank of the British defensive line, there are 4,000. The very risky and daring movement of the Boers in directed toward enveloping this line, two columns advancing against Ladysmith, General Joubert directing the forces in the neighborhood of Dundee. Should the attack be delivered simultaneously at both places it will prove the Boers to have carried out plans of considerable complexity with a precision which might excite the envy of any soldiers in the world. Should they succeed at the same time in thrusting their columns between Ladysmith and Dundee, they will practically isolate the latter place, and may be able to mask the British garrisons at that point and Ladysmith, while the concentration described as having Greytown as its objective advances unopposed to Pietermaritzburg. Bennett Barlegh in a telegram dispatched from Ladysmith last night, says it is reported that the Boers are hemmed in at Acton homes and suffering severely.

BOSTON'S MYSTERY.

Suicide of a Fashionably Dressed Woman—Letters Left.

BOSTON, Mass., Oct. 19.—The supposed suicide of an unknown woman, who is described as having been about five feet six inches in height, probably fifty years of age, fashionably dressed and with an appearance of refinement, is engaging the attention of the police to-day.

The woman was a passenger on board an East Boston ferryboat on its mid-night trip. After the passengers had left the boat the body was found in the water. In the bag was a sealed envelope addressed to Mrs. B. I. Clark, general delivery, Worcester, Mass., and an unsealed envelope containing a letter which said that the writer saw nothing in life to keep her on earth and directed that if her body ever should be found the authorities should refer to the Boston Post, who would be glad that it was buried. Both letters were written on paper bearing the seal of the Hotel Touraine, Boston.

"I do not wish," the letter said, further, "to reveal my identity, for it would do no good and rob me entirely of the little comfort which I may find in death."

In addition to these two letters there were found clippings from the San Francisco Call of September 25, giving the Oakland race course tips and several letters torn into small bits. Some of the pieces when placed together, formed part of a typewritten letter, which read:

"Have to-day conferred with your husband's attorneys and they inform us that he definitely declined to advance any further sum. They also assert that you, on September 22 last, made draft upon him for \$400 without his knowledge or consent, and although drawn under these circumstances, he honored it rather than further discredit you. We cannot see our way clear to proceed further in the—"

At the Hotel Touraine it was stated that no person was missing from that house.

Christian Missionary Jubilee.

CINCINNATI, O., Oct. 19.—The business sessions of the jubilee missionary conventions of the Christian church concluded to-day, and to-morrow will be devoted to farewell receptions and sight-seeing. Of the 12,000 visitors fully 5,000 remain for the closing events. The singing at Music hall to-day was conducted by W. H. Hanna. Miss Rebel Withers led the opening service and the visiting missionaries were introduced. In an address on "Expansion: Greater America for Christ," Homer T. Wilson strongly advocated the holding of all the new possessions. Following the report on ministerial relief I. J. Spencer delivered an address on it as the supreme question and F. M. Dowling spoke on "Boys and Girls Rally Day for America." At the five meetings in different halls in the afternoon W. F. Richardson, Carey E. Morgan, D. O. Smart, R. M. Olden and B. B. Tyler were the presiding officers respectively of the sections on education, Christian Endeavor, pastors, conference, Sunday schools and orphans homes and kindred benevolences.

Liable to Stamp Tax.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 19.—The attention of the internal revenue bureau having been called to the method adopted by transfer companies in the various cities of giving at a residence or hotel a receipt for a trunk, which calls for the delivery of such trunk at some hotel or house in another city, it is held that such receipts or bills of lading are clearly liable to the stamp tax under schedule A, of the act of June 13, 1898. Internal revenue officers, therefore, are directed to investigate transfer companies in their respective districts with a view of determining whether they are issuing such receipts, and if so whether they are fully complying with the law regarding the stamping of such receipts.

Three Doctors in Consultation.

From Benjamin Franklin.

"When you are sick, what you like best is to be chosen for a medicine in the first place; what experience tells you is best, to be chosen for a medicine in the last place; what reason (i. e. theory) says is best is to be chosen in the last place. But if you can get Dr. Inclinatum, Dr. Experience and Dr. Reason to hold a consultation together, they will give you the best advice that can be taken."

When you have a bad cold, Dr. Inclinatum would recommend Chamberlain's Cough Remedy because it is pleasant and safe to take. Dr. Experience would recommend it because it never fails to effect a speedy and permanent cure. Dr. Reason would recommend it because it is based on scientific principles and acts on nature's plan in relieving the lungs, opening the secretions and restoring the system to a natural and healthy condition. For sale by druggists.

PRESIDENT ARRIVES

In Washington—Everybody Improved in Health by Trip.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19.—The President and his party arrived to-day after a delay of an hour near Baltimore. The party consisted of the President and Mrs. McKinley, Secretary Long, Secretary and Mrs. Hitchcock and Attorney General Griggs, Assistant Secretary Cortelyou and Mr. Finney, private secretary to the secretary of the navy; members of the press and the white house attendants. All but the three cabinet officers mentioned had left the party at various points on the road.

The train was met at the station by Secretary Root, Adjutant General Corbin, District Marshal Palmer and John Addison Porter, secretary to the president.

Some anxiety was caused at first by the announcement that the train was delayed three quarters of an hour near Baltimore, but it was afterward learned that the only trouble lay in the combination of a sharp curve, heavy grade and wet rails in the tunnel, which necessitated backing out to get another engine. The train was stopped as usual on the Sixth street siding outside the Pennsylvania station. The President's carriage drove to the door of the car and the President and Mrs. McKinley stepped directly into the carriage and were driven at once to the white house. Mrs. McKinley was looking stronger than on her return from her trip west and it was agreed by the members of the party that she had improved in health on the journey.

MODUS VIVENDI

Relative to the Alaskan Boundary Controversy.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 18.—Secretary Hay had a conference to-day with Mr. Tower, the charge of the British embassy here, relative to the Alaskan modus vivendi. The secretary had already given consideration to the last proposition of the British government and was prepared to submit the answer from the United States, which in this case takes the form of another proposition. This last proposition differs in no essential than that which has already served as the basis of the agreement between Secretary Hay and Mr. Tower, but upon close scrutiny of the latest form it was deemed advisable by our government to make a few changes in the text, solely with the view of clearing up beyond any chance of double construction a few of the points of the agreement.

It is not doubted that the changes will be acceptable to the British government; indeed, they may be of a character that will warrant Mr. Tower in accepting them as his own responsibility. In such case the agreement may be ratified in a very short time. Mr. Tower may decide, however, to submit the changes to the foreign office by cable, in which case the completion of the agreement may be delayed for a day or two.

There will be no formal document to receive the signatures of the parties to the agreement, as was the case in the negotiations of the Bering sea modus vivendi, but the agreement defining the temporary boundary will be set out in the notes exchanged between Secretary Hay and Mr. T. ver.

Emperor William's Speech.

BERLIN, Oct. 19.—To-day's newspapers are for the most part barren of comment upon the speech of Emperor William at Hamburg yesterday, at a luncheon following the launching of the battleship, Kaiser Karl der Grosse. The Berliner Tagblatt, however, says: "His majesty's expression of regret that his wishes for a big fleet did not meet with intelligent furtherance eight years ago will be found significant just now in more ways than one."

The Socialist organ, the Vorwaerts, says: "The speech was a mixture of Pan-German fleet enthusiasm and Dr. von Miquel's non-partisan sammelpotik. It dovetails in the programme with the Oeynhausen and Dortmund speeches. While the former promised an anti-strike bill and the latter promised a canal project this speech at Hamburg announces a new and immense naval bill. The emperor's words cannot be construed otherwise."

A Fine Troopship.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 19.—The U. S. transport Thomas, the finest troop ship afloat, sailed from Cramp's ship yard to-day for New York, where she will go into dry dock to be painted. The Thomas is to go to the Philippines early in November, and will carry over two thousand souls including soldiers, officers, nurses and crews.

On the main deck is the ice-making plant, with a capacity of two tons per day. There is also a condensing apparatus for cooling salt water into filtered fresh water with a capacity of 10,000 gallons a day; a carbonating machine for a bakery, a laundry and a cold storage plant. On the spar deck are the soldiers' writing room, a dining room, with seventy-six seats for company and ship's officers, a saloon and lavatories. The quartermaster's department, commanding officer's headquarters, regular officers' quarters and smoking and lounging rooms are on the promenade deck.

Methodist Home Missions.

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 19.—The second day's session of the Woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church was devoted to the reports of the committee. The finance committee reported appropriations of \$177,417, of which \$48,850 was deacons' work and \$3,800 for work in California and Hawaii.

The report of the conference corresponding secretaries showed an encouraging increase, as did also the reports of the Georgia and Florida bureaus. The afternoon session was devoted to reports of the bureau of immigrants and the bureau of the eastern central states, western southern states and Texas.

Bridge Combine.

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 19.—It is announced to-day that the bridge combine under the name of the American Bridge Company, had been completed and would be in operation by the first of next month. The combine includes 35 of the 37 plants in the country, and is capitalized at \$67,500,000, of which \$33,000,000 is preferred and \$34,500,000 common stock. It will control about 25 per cent. of the output of the country. The headquarters will be in New York.

A Thousand Tongues

Could not express the rapture of Annie E. Springer, of 1125 Howard st., Philadelphia, Pa., when she found that Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption had completely cured her of a hacking cough that for many years had made life a burden. All other remedies and doctors could give her no help, but she found this Royal Cure—"It soon removed the pain in my chest and I can now sleep soundly, something I feel like sounding its praises throughout the universe." So, we everyone who tries Dr. King's New Discovery for any trouble of the throat, chest or lungs. Price 60c and \$1.00 Trial bottles free at Logan Drug Co.'s drug store; every bottle guaranteed.

It's the Baby is Cutting Teeth.

Be sure and use that old and well-tried remedy, Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup, for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gum, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. Twenty-five cents a bottle.

WINTER FASHIONS FOR MEN

Rough Woollens, Checked Trousers and Buff Gaiters Among Them.

The rougher the goods the more admirable the suit in advice tailors are giving to their customers as they roll out the widths of new Blues and Bedford tweeds, pilot serges and whitney mixtures. The surface of every one of these is as rough as wool can be compounded, and grays of every gradation, toned with half invisible broken plaids in mingled dark blue and red and green, are the fashionable fabrics for the fall and winter morning and business costumes. The linen of the men who are wearing these gray suits is colored solidly, that is, in one uniform shade of dull blue, in dove gray, in cadet blue and a pleasant one of buff. The bosom and cuffs are colored, but the high turnover collar is white.

The tie to-day is almost anything that individual taste leans toward. Changeable silks that turn in the light from ruby red, to greenish blue and reflect tones of rich purple, command a large following, and it is noticeable that good neckties bring bigger prices every year. Five dollars, for instance, is paid for a stretch of heavy soft satin-faced armor in a rich naval blue bearing small brighter blue demasked figures, and more than ever is it the fashion for a man to buy his necktie in the form of a straight piece of silk and fold and knot it himself for use, invariably employing a rather showy pin for the centre of the knot. Rich white silk, with a dull surface finish and perhaps a few demasked white figures thereon is esteemed for afternoon use by the glided youth at this moment, while he utterly abhors a white satin tie, and most especially one that shows any color on its white surface.

With the black frock coat of 1899 and 1900, check gray and white checked, not gray striped, trousers are the orthodox selection. The checks are one-fourth of an inch square, larger and more daring than any seen for many a day, and yet because of the use of gray, instead of black, with the white squares, there is nothing extremely conspicuous in the new plaid. Exactly the same check over-spreads the new box-shaped deeply-pleated Marlborough rain coat that has been introduced from England. This is a pliable and not so heavy a waterproof as the regulation mackintosh, and with its Raglan sleeves and big smoked pearl buttons it is to all intents and purposes a becoming and comfortable winter overcoat, serviceable in nearly all weathers.

The soft winter hat has a somewhat taller crown and smaller, more closely rolled brim than ever before, and it is made of gray felt as dull in color as smoke, or a warm chocolate brown. What has more than anything else served to freshen and enhance its appearance is its rather festive crown scarf. About the crown not a band of gros grain ribbon is wound, but a softly folded width of twilled silk that is black, with a satin dot in it, or brown with a red thread shinning out at intervals, else a pigeon gray fold with a dull figure here and there demasked on its surface.

Men who ride and drive a great deal affect Alpines with cheerful plaid crown scarfs, and the new box-shaped buff-colored driving coat that has a strap-seamed yoke that, back and front, extends nearly to the waist line. Buff-colored gaiters, with buttons of the same color, ornament the feet. Well-polished, black-laced shoes the buff gaiter is omnipresent, both with morning as well as afternoon dress, where in the latter instance the buff spots are sometimes exchanged for those of a gray that matches the gray in the checked trousers.—New York Sun.

STAFF OF PARLIAMENT.

Their Salaries Foot Up to a Quarter of a Million.

London Mail: Most people think that all members of parliament are elected for a brief period only, and not for life.

In most cases that is so. At the same time there are no fewer than sixty-six "M. P.'s" who are elected for life.

Not only so, but unlike other M. P.'s, they are paid salaries, and in one year they get as much as £42,000 out of the taxpayers' pocket.

Parliaments come and parliaments go, but these sixty-six gentlemen go on forever—that is, till they die.

To be plain, they form the permanent staff of the houses of parliament. They run the legislative show, and without them the elected M. P. and hereditary lord would be in a pickle.

The biggest salary paid to a member of the permanent staff is £1,000, and this sum is paid to the clerks of both the house of commons and the house of lords. Each also gets a house rent free.

The two clerks' assistants get £1,500 apiece. But the clerk assistant of the house of commons has the advantage over his brother in the lords, for he gets a house as well.

The second clerk assistant and the sergeant at arms in the house of commons both get £1,200, and the latter also gets a house.

The reading clerk of the house of lords gets £900, while the examiner for standing orders and the deputy sergeant at arms of the house of commons each gets £800.

Two salaries of £500 each are given to the yeoman usher of the house of lords, who is also secretary to the lord great chamberlain and to the assistant sergeant at arms in the house of commons. The deputy sergeant at arms in the house of commons gets only £250, but the peers are so well behaved that he has nothing to do.

The cost of these plums—places in the permanent staff of the houses of parliament—are in the house of lords £2,450 a year, and in the house of commons £3,000. In addition to these are seventeen clerks in the establishment of the house of lords who divide £10,730 a year between them, while thirty-four clerks in the house of commons share out £15,581 a year.

The regulation of the staff, including their salaries and pensions, is entrusted to a committee of the house of commons. The clerk of the house of commons, the gentleman usher of the Black Rod, and the sergeant at arms in each house are appointed by the crown. The second and third clerks at the tables of the house of lords and commons are appointed—the first by the lord chancellor and the others by the prime minister.

The appointment of the clerks, however, are vested in the clerk of the parliaments and the clerk of the house of commons, with absolute freedom of selection. So important are these latter appointments held to be that they are never thrown open to general competition, though all candidates nominated have to pass an examination.

Are Well Satisfied.

BERLIN, Oct. 19.—Private dispatches from Germans now attending the Philadelphia trade congress declare that they are extremely well satisfied with the reception accorded them by the Americans, and that the joint commission to discuss the differences between German and American traders will accomplish much good.

Reciprocity Sought.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 19.—Reciprocity arrangements are sought by the island of St. Kitts and Turks Island, British West Indies. The arrangements so far cover nearly all the British West Indian possessions save those two, and Mr. Tower, the British charge, has taken the initial steps in their behalf.

Merrier Was Pinked.

PARIS, Oct. 18.—M. Gohier, writer of leading articles for the Dreyfusard organ Aurore, fought a duel to-day with the son of General Merrier, former minister of war. M. Merrier was pinked in the chest, but it not thought to be seriously hurt.

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